

Message Text

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FOR US DEL CSCE

FOL RPT GENEVA 8059 ACTION SECSTATE INFO USUN NY 21 SEP 77 QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM

SUBJECT: NGO CONFERENCE ON DISCRIMINATION AGAINST INDIGENOUS
POPULATIONS IN THE AMERICAN -- SEPTEMBER 20, 1977

REF: (A) STATE 211695; (B) GASTON-SHAPIRO-HEWITT (IO) TELECON
SEPT. 20

1. SUBJECT CONFERENCE OPENED SEPT 20 WITH GREETINGS FROM HUMAN RIGHTS
DIRECTOR VAN BOVEN AND OTHER U.N. DIGNITARIES. FOLLOWING A
LAKOTA INDIAN PRAYER, GEORGE ERASMUS (INDIAN BROTHERHOOD OF
NORTHWEST TERRITORY) SPOKE, FOCUSING ATTENTION ON SELF-
DETERMINATION, AND CITED CONSTRUCTION OF ALASKA PIPELINE
AS A CASE WHERE INDIANS' SELF DETERMINATION WAS IGNORED BY
GOVERNMENTS. HE INJECTED IDEA OF FOURTH WORLD PEOPLE
WHO ARE ABORIGINES BUT IN THEIR COUNTRIES STILL LACK INDE-
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PENDENCE, AS CONTRASTED WITH THIRD WORLD PEOPLE WHO HAVE
GAINED INDEPENDENCE AND BECOME MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS.
SPEAKER NOTED THAT SOME THIRD WORLD PEOPLE ARE ARMED IN THEIR
STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM WHILE FOURTH WORLD PEOPLE ARE NOT
EMPLOYING WEAPONS TO GAIN INDEPENDENCE. NORTHWEST REP WAS
FOLLOWED BY BOLIVIA AND PANAMA PARTICIPANTS WHO MADE MILD
ATTACKS ON CONQUISTADORS.

2. RUSSELL MEANS OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT (AIM), WHO HAS PRESENCE, A SENSE OF THE DRAMATIC AND RATHER EXCESSIVE RHETORIC, WAS MOST COMPELLING SPEAKER DURING MORNING MEETING. MEANS PREFACED REMARKS BY SAYING THAT THE INDIAN NATION WAS QUOTE: LIVING IN THE BELLY OF A MONSTER; THE MONSTER WAS THE UNITED STATES-UNQUOTE. HE ACCUSED OTHER WESTERN HEMISPHERE COUNTRIES OF FOLLOWING U.S. TACTICS (WHICH LEAD TO DEPRIVATIONS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE). HE CAUTIONED INDIANS NOT TO TURN THE OTHER CHEEK AS THEY HAD BEEN DOING FOR 500 YEARS.

3. MEANS WENT ON TO CALL PRESIDENT CARTER THE GREATEST RACIST IN THE WORLD. A REASON FOR THIS LABEL STEMS FROM THE U.S. INDIANS' BELIEF THAT PLANNED GENOCIDE IS CARRIED OUT BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AS A POLICY. MEANS SAID HE HAD PROOF TO SUBSTANTIATE HIS ALLEGATIONS THAT GENOCIDE IS CONDUCTED IN INDIAN HOSPITALS. HE CONTINUED, STATING THAT THE U.N. HAS BEEN TALKING ABOUT THE SAME ISSUE (SOUTH AFRICA) FOR 25 YEARS AND NOTHING HAS CHANGED. ACCORDING TO MEANS IT IS THE U.S. WHICH MORE AND MORE DICTATES FOREIGN POLICY IN THE WORLD (NOT THE U.N.) AND WHERE THE U.S. DOES NOT DICTATE POLICY ITS INFLUENCE IS FELT BY USING THE CIA. HE CITED AS EXAMPLES, BRAZIL, ECUADOR, PERU AND VENEZUELA. MEANS ENCOURAGED INDIANS TO TAKE WHITE MAN'S APPROACH AND "PROTECT THEIR CAPITAL." SPEAKER NEVER EXPANDED ON THIS IDEA OR CLARIFIED WHAT HE MEANT.

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4. P.M. SESSION WAS DEVOTED TO STATEMENTS BY LATIN AMERICAN INDIANS WITH MAIN THRUST ON SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY.

5. COMMENT: U.S. CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE CENTER OF ATTENTION DURING THIS FOUR-DAY SESSION, WITH EMPHASIS IN GENOCIDE. U.S. "GUEST" IS CONSIDERING GENERAL STATEMENT IF IT APPEARS THAT COMMENTS WOULD BE USEFUL OR DESIRABLE FOR THE RECORD. MISSION GENEVA WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING POSSIBLE U.S. INTERVENTION, ESPECIALLY ON SUBJECT OF GENOCIDE. END COMMENT. SORENSON

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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